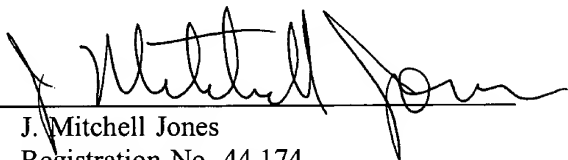


REMARKS

In the Office Action mailed December 8, 2000, the Examiner requested a species election. Applicants elect the following species with traverse: Species A (treatment of hypertension with the cis-9, trans-11 isomer species of CLA; relevant to Claims 1-9), subspecies C (treatment with unspecified conjugates of linoleic acid; relevant to Claims 1, 2, 3, 7, 8, and 9), subspecies E (treatment with vehicle unspecified; relevant to Claims 1, 2, 3, 7, and 9).

Applicants respectfully traverse the requirements for election of species. Applicants note that for the required election of a particular isomer, unspecified conjugates of linoleic acid (Election C and D), and vehicle unspecified (Elections E and F), the Examiner has not established any of the following: a) a need for separate classification for search; b) a separate status in the art where the inventions are classifiable together; or c) the need for different fields of search. Absent a showing of one of the above, Applicants respectfully submit that the required election of species is not supported and thus improper. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the claims be examined without the requirement for election of a particular isomer, unspecified conjugates of linoleic acid (Election C and D), and vehicle unspecified (Elections E and F)

Dated: January 5, 2001


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